THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ICMR are taking appropriate action in the matter.

Steps for Eradication of Leprosy

3912. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of leprosy patients in the country;

(b) whether steps are being taken to eradicate leprosy;

• (c) if so, the year by winch leprosy is likely to be eradicated;

(d) the steps taken for the proper treatment, after treatment training and then rehabilitation of leprosy patients; and

(e) the details thereof.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) It is estimated that there are about nine (9) lakhs leprosy patients in the country.

(b) and (c) Government of India have launched a National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) with the objective of elimination of leprosy by the year 2000 AD. by reducing the incidence to less than 1 per 10000 population.

(d) and (e) Under NLEP antileprosy treatment, reconstructive surgery and deformity and ulcer care services are provided to all the leprosy patients free of cost. A Pilot Rehabilitation Project has been formulated which *inter-alia* envisages vocational training anil initial one time financial support for those needing rehabilitation.

Financial Assistance to Medical conferences

3913. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of medical conferences of national and state level to whom financial assistance was given during the last three years;

(b) what is the total amount of assistance given in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have avaluated the utility of such conferences and such grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Closing Down the C.G.H.S. Dispeasary at Indcrpuri, New Delhi

3914. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have suddenly decided to close down the CGHS dispensary located at Inderpuri, New Delhi 10012;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that it will cause great inconveniance and hardship to nummerous Central Government employees, their dependents and to the Central Government pensioners; and

(d) if so, whether Government will rescind their decision in the matter?'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha

3915. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of irregularities have taken place in the Pre-Medical Admission Test Results of 1994 of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Savagram, District Wardha in Maharashtra which is financed by Government;

(b) whether a number of students and their parents have complained about the irregularities;

(c) whether the Roll Numbers of the candidates in the waiting list have also been shown in the list of those called for interview;

(d) what are the names and marks obtained by the candidate who are called for interview: and

(e) what action Government propose to take in the matter of these irregularities

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rules regarding Reimbursement of Claims to Medicines Procured from Chemists

3916. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have modified the rules in July, 1994 relating to reimbursement of claims to medicines procured from chemists prescribed outside the CGHS formulary:

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether it is a fact that with the implementation of the above orders', the CGHS beneficiaries with low income will be put to additional burden of spending the money for purchase of CGHS medicines from their own pocket which in many a cases may not be possible to afford;

(d) if so, what is Government reaction thereto and what steps Government are taking in the matter;

(e) whether it is a fact that the VIPs availing of CGHS facility will continue to avail the benefits from their respective dispensaries as before;

(f) if so, what are the reasons for two types of standards for CGHS beneficiaries; and

(g) what steps Government are taking to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (g) The position is the CGHS beneficiaries have been broadly divided into serving government servants and pensioners. While the former are required to directly purchase the non formulary medicines prescribed by specialists directly from any loeal chemist and then claim reimbursement of the expenditure involved from the service head of their department/ office, the pensioners would continue to get such medicines from the dispensaries, as in the past. It would not involve any additional financial burden on any category of employees, as the expenditure involved would be quickly raimbursed by their respective offices. There is not discrimination of any type between VIPs and other beneficiaries.

Oral Vaccine for Rabid Animals

3917. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Health Organisation has been successful in evolving and administering oral rabies vaccines on different rabid animals;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and schemes implemented to immunise free roaming dogs in different cities, metropolises and rural India; and

(c) what is the latest assessment about street dog population in Delhi, Bombay, Ahmadabad and other major cities'.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C SILVERA): (a) The World Health Organisation has succeeded in evolving and administering "Oral Rabies Vaccines" to rabies prone wild animals like jackals and foxes, which are likely to transmit rabies to domestic animals.

(b) For assessing the efficacy of the vaccines, the World Health Organisation is planning to conduct large scale field trials on oral immunisation of dogs in some countries

(c) Reliable imformation is not available.

Opening up of Consultation Service in Ayurveda and Homoeopathy in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital

3918. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND